

ACS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES

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GREETINGS FROM THE ACS CHIEF

Greetings,

I am delighted to be here. Having served in Seoul over 12 years ago, it's great to be back. I'm joined by my wife Darin, and our two young boys Tyler and Khumbu, ages 4 and 2 years old. All of us look forward to meeting many of you during our three-year tour in Korea.



We're coming from a wonderful two-year tour in Kathmandu. If you have any questions about trekking in Nepal, please drop me a line.

We have a talented and experienced ACS team in Seoul, and I'm certain that we'll continue to provide you with excellent consular service. Still, we're always looking to provide better service, so please let me know if we can improve in any areas. I would also like to hear from you if anyone in our team provides outstanding, exceptional assistance, especially in an emergency.

Since our arrival at the end of July, we've had nothing but hot, wet and stormy weather, so I wish you a safe and pleasant September.

Warmest regards,

Tack Lim
ACS Chief
U S Embassy Seoul

P. S. The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) is hosting a Labor Day picnic on September 1. There may still be tickets available. If you're interested, please check out their website for more information: <http://www.amchamkorea.org/>

CONTACT US!

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy Seoul
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110-710, Korea
- or -

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy, Seoul
Unit #9600, Box 9997
DPO AP, 96209-9997

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport)
Tel: 02-397-4114 (Other Services)
Fax: 02-397-4080
DSN: 721-4114

English: www.asktheconsul.org/
Korean: <http://korean.seoul.usembassy.gov>
E-mail: seoulinfoACS@state.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/americansinkorea

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Embassy will be closed on the following day: September 3 (Monday) Labor Day

The ACS Unit will be closed for routine services, including passport processing, on September 3rd. Please plan ahead, and enjoy the holiday!

Please be advised that the work days just before and after a holiday are usually busier in the American Citizen Services Unit of the Embassy with all appointments taken. Do not be surprised at a longer wait for consular services on those days. A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2012 is available on-line at http://seoul.usembassy.gov/p_holidays.html

**CONSULAR SERVICES IN TAEGU, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 20-21**

We will be conducting services at U.S. Army Garrison Henry (or Camp Henry) in the city of Taegu, Thursday and Friday, September 20 and September 21.

During these visits, U.S. citizens may apply for U.S. passports, additional visa pages in their current passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and Social Security cards. A consular officer will also offer notarial services and provide information regarding voting, federal benefits, and registration with the Embassy. The consular staff is also available to assist with emergencies involving U.S. citizens. Any questions about requirements should be directed by email to seoul_acs@state.gov.

Please note that an appointment will be required for services in Taegu. Call the U.S. Embassy to schedule an appointment at 02-397-4114. Please specify that you would like to make an appointment for consular services in Taegu and which date you would prefer (it can be any of those listed above). Be sure to call by noon on the Friday prior to the visit. For the September outreach, please make your appointment by Friday, September 14th at noon. Once you make an appointment, you will receive further details including location.

ALL APPOINTMENT SYSTEM

The ACS Unit began requiring appointments for all non-emergency, routine services on June 15, 2011. This is also a worldwide policy for all U.S. embassies and consulates. Routine services include passport and additional pages applications, requests for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, Social Security card and benefit applications, and notarial services.

Requiring appointments for all our non-emergency, routine services means that we'll be able to serve everyone more quickly and efficiently -- it will lessen considerably the long lines and busy waiting room that we often had during non-appointment sessions. Of course, we'll always take care of U.S. citizens with emergencies whether they have an appointment or not. Please note that notarial services are not considered emergency appointments.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Q: "THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT SAYS THAT I NEED AN AFFIDAVIT IN ORDER TO GET A SOUTH KOREAN DRIVERS LICENSE. MAY I GO TO THE EMBASSY TO GET THIS?"

Yes! According to the [Korean Driver's License Agency](#), if you are staying in Korea for more than 90 days and have registered as a foreigner, you may exchange your U.S. driver's license for a Korean license with a confirmation issued by the U.S. Embassy. Please note that the U.S. Embassy cannot certify the authenticity of the U.S. license. However, if you have a valid, unexpired U.S. driver's license, you may get a notarized affidavit.

Please make an appointment to appear at the embassy with your valid, unexpired U.S. driver's license, U.S. passport and fee.

Please note that this service is only available to U.S. citizens.

CRIME

The crime rate in the Republic of Korea is low. However, pick-pocketing, purse snatching, assault, hotel room and residential burglary, and residential crime occur more frequently in major metropolitan areas--such as Seoul and Busan--than elsewhere in the Republic of Korea. Itaewon, Shinchon, Myeongdong, and Hongdae are well known entertainment and shopping districts in Seoul in which crowds, alcohol, and a higher prevalence of drug activity can also present a higher risk for crime. Please use caution in all crowded entertainment, nightlife, and shopping districts throughout Korea. Recently, a small number of incidents involving U.S. citizens have included allegations of physical and sexual assault, drugs slipped into drinks, and thefts of purses or wallets. Bar and street fights, as well as occasional harassment of Westerners, have also been reported in nightlife districts in Seoul. Exercise caution when traveling alone at night and use only legitimate taxis or public transportation. Reduce the likelihood of becoming a crime victim by exercising the same type of security precautions you would take when visiting any large city in the United States.

VOTING: AS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE

The U.S. Embassy will host an absentee ballot collection event in early October to assist American citizens voting in the November general elections. All U.S. active duty personnel and U.S. citizens residing in Korea should register to vote as soon as possible to ensure that they will receive their absentee ballots in time for the election. Please go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program website www.FVAP.gov for details. You may also contact the American Citizenship Services at VOTESEOUL@state.gov for assistance. Remember - voting is a right and a privilege.

Voting

Please note: This is strictly a non-partisan event. The U.S. Embassy does not endorse any particular party or candidate, and supports this event only to ensure that all American citizens who want to vote have the resources to do so. Please be sure to bring a U.S. government issued photo ID and your last U.S. address information. Also note, there will be no onsite parking available at the event. If driving, please park nearby and enter on foot.

TRAVEL WARNINGS

The U.S. Department of State has recently issued travel warnings or travel alerts for the following countries and regions. If you are traveling to any of these regions in the near future, please consult travel.state.gov for more information.

Travel Warnings:

[Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#) 08/10/2012
[Iraq](#) 08/09/2012
[Congo, Democratic Republic of](#) 08/02/2012
[Syria](#) 08/01/2012
[Central African Republic](#) 07/11/2012
[Kenya](#) 07/05/2012
[Afghanistan](#) 06/27/2012
[Nigeria](#) 06/21/2012
[Haiti](#) 06/18/2012
[Somalia](#) 06/15/2012
[Philippines](#) 06/14/2012
[Mauritania](#) 05/24/2012
[Saudi Arabia](#) 05/18/2012
[Lebanon](#) 05/08/2012
[Algeria](#) 05/04/2012
[Iran](#) 04/27/2012
[Cote d'Ivoire](#) 04/23/2012
[Burundi](#) 04/18/2012
[Eritrea](#) 04/18/2012
[Mali](#) 04/09/2012
[Niger](#) 04/06/2012
[Chad](#) 03/29/2012
[Yemen](#) 03/27/2012
[Colombia](#) 02/21/2012
[Mexico](#) 02/08/2012
[Pakistan](#) 02/02/2012
[Sudan](#) 01/11/2012
[Republic of South Sudan](#) 12/22/2011

[Guinea](#) 11/04/2011
[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#) 11/03/2011
[Libya](#) 09/22/2011

Travel Alerts:

[Bahrain](#) 06/26/2012
[Hurricane Typhoon Season 2012](#) 06/04/2012

Worldwide Caution January 31, 2011

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

EMBASSY CONTACT INFORMATION

American Citizen Services

U.S. Embassy Seoul

188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu

Seoul, Korea 110-710

- or -

American Citizen Services

U.S. Embassy, Seoul

Unit #9600, Box 9997

DPO AP, 96209-9997

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport Inquiry line)

Tel: 02-397-4114 (All other services)

Fax: 02-397-4080

DSN: 721-4114

English: <http://www.asktheconsul.org/>

Korean: <http://korean.seoul.usembassy.gov>

E-mail: seoulinfoACS@state.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/americansinkorea

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